



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

TO: Public Works Commission
Via: Travis K. Hopkins, PE, Public Works Director
FROM: Howard Johnson, Utilities Manager
DATE: August 5, 2008
SUBJECT: Update on Water Supplies

This memo is written to update the Commission on current water supply issues and ongoing conservation efforts. The City of Huntington Beach continues to be a leader in local water supply planning, working hand and hand with the Orange County Water District and the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). As an example, the City of Huntington Beach was the first agency within the County to adopt a current drought management resolution (2007). As you are aware, California is in a critical water supply situation; recent hydrologic and regulatory constraints have significantly reduced the reliability of Southern California's imported water supplies and depleted regional supply reserves. Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is proposing extraordinary conservation measures to help meet near and long-term water needs.

This month MWD will be implementing board-adopted water use efficiency programs designed to be part of a long-term supply reliability strategy. The City stands ready to meet these goals and is in the final planning stage to implement an aggressive conservation program.

August 4, 2008, the City Council approved the City's new Water Management Plan documenting the need to conserve water and avoid or minimize the effects of water shortages. It should be noted that MWD staff has recommended against a Supply Allocation Plan reduction for 2008. In other words, they hope conservation works this summer without the need for water rationing. Last month MWD analyzed several supply and demand scenarios in an effort to forecast their abilities to supply water for the next 5 years. Their model predicts that MWD would run out of stored water 70% of the time at some point in the 5 year period. This prediction assumes no new supplies and continued restrictions within the Delta due to the Delta Smelt Operating Rules.

Orange County Water District (OCWD), the manager of the Ground Water Basin, has made great strides in local water supply reliability with the completion of the Ground Water Replenishment (GWR) system. This drought proof water supply is currently producing 35 million gallons/day of water that is being injected into the ground water basin; the District hopes to be up to design production of 50 million gallons/day by the

Update on Water Supplies
August 5, 2008
Page 2

end of this year. Orange County Sanitation District has a large pump station in construction that will supply the additional effluent needed to meet the GWR demand.

With all good news comes some bad. The Met system has curtailed all ground water replenishment water and will likely do so for the next few years due to the current water supply shortage. OCWD has historically purchased on an average 40 + million gallons per day of replenishment water that was injected into the basin. With this loss, the net gain of GWR is zero. OCWD has set the 2008/09 basin pumping percentage at 69%. This is down 5% from the 74% set this current year. We support their decision to protect the ground water basin from further overdraft. Water costs to the City are projected to increase 17% in the coming year due to increased costs of imported water.

On a more positive note, our citizens are currently answering the call for conservation. With the addition of the City's new Water Conservation Coordinator, Mr. Bill Crisp, we are confident we will meet our water supply goals without adversely affecting our standard of living. Mr. Crisp has already contacted all school districts and is working with their maintenance staff to reduce irrigation usage. The City's Parks, Tree and Landscape Section has reduced their irrigation usage 20% by reprogramming all controllers within the parks system and landscape medians. Estimated savings = 50 million gallons per year.

The Utilities Division is actively working with IS and MWDOC to fund a new allocation based billing system. City Council was updated on this effort at a July Study Session.

We are also happy to announce that our pilot Automated Meter Reading program is working nicely and will be expanded in 2008/09. Currently we are reading 200 meters along Pacific Coast Highway using state of the art radio reading equipment. When fully implemented, this program will allow staff to gather daily meter reads, assess potential water wasting, and help our customers meet the common goal of water conservation while also reducing urban runoff.

We hope this information is of value and if you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact our Utilities Manager Howard Johnson at X5503.

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